

Customer No. 24498
Attorney Docket No. PF030001US
Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for creating and/or accessing a menu for audio content stored in a storage means, the content consisting of audio tracks, and the menu containing representations of said audio tracks, the method comprising:
classifying the audio tracks into groups or clusters, wherein said classification is performed according to characteristic parameters of said audio tracks;
detecting addition of a new audio track;
determining characteristic parameters of the new audio track;
based on the determined characteristic parameters of the new audio track,
classifying the new audio track into an existing group or cluster;
selecting automatically an audio track being a representative for the cluster into which the new audio track was classified, wherein the medoid of the cluster is selected ~~said selection is performed according to characteristic parameters of said audio track and of the other audio tracks of said cluster;~~
automatically generating ~~as said representation~~ a reproducible audio extract from said representative audio track; and
associating said audio extract as representative of said cluster to a menu list.
2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein said characteristic parameters used for classification of audio content comprise one or more audio descriptors, the audio descriptors being either physical features, or perceptual features, or psychological or social features of the audio content.
3. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein an audio track can be classified into more than one cluster.

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4. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the audio tracks within a cluster have variable order, so that the user listens to a randomly selected track when having selected a cluster, with said track belonging to said cluster.
5. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein a user can modify the result of automatic classification of audio tracks.
6. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein a user can modify the classification rules for automatic classification of audio tracks.
7. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the actual audio data are clustered within said storage means according to said menu.
8. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the audio extract is a sample from the audio track, ~~or an audio sequence being synthesized from the actual audio track.~~
9. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein audio extracts are created additionally for audio tracks not being representatives of clusters.
10. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the length of audio extracts is not predetermined.
11. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein one of said clusters has no representative track.
12. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein said menu is hierarchical, such that a cluster may contain one or more subclusters.
13. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the classification rules are modified automatically if a defined precondition is detected, and a

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reclassification may be performed.

14. (Original) Method according to claim 13, wherein said precondition comprises that the difference between the number of tracks in a cluster and the number of tracks in another cluster reaches a maximum limit value.
15. (Original) Method according to claim 13, wherein said precondition comprises that all stored tracks were classified into one cluster, and the total number of tracks reaches a maximum limit value.
16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for creating or accessing a menu for audio content stored on a storage means, the content consisting of audio tracks, and the menu containing representations of audio tracks, the apparatus comprising:
 - means for automatically classifying the audio tracks into groups, or clusters, wherein said classification is performed according to characteristic parameters of said audio tracks;
 - means for detecting addition of a new audio track;
 - means for determining characteristic parameters of the new audio track;
 - means for classifying, based on the determined characteristic parameters, the new audio track into an existing group or cluster;
 - means for automatically selecting an audio track being a representative for the cluster into which the new audio track was classified, wherein the medoid of the cluster is selected~~said selection is performed according to characteristic parameters of said audio track and of the other audio tracks of said cluster;~~
 - means for automatically generating a reproducible audio extract from said representative audio track; and
 - means for associating said audio extract as representative of said cluster to a menu list.
17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:
 - means for selecting and reproducing a first audio ~~representation~~ extract from a first cluster;

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means for a first user input, the input controlling whether the cluster associated with the ~~currently selected audio thumbnail~~ first audio extract is selected or not;
and
means for a second user input, the input controlling whether another cluster is selected or not.

18. (Previously Amended) Apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising means for reading an audio track of the selected cluster from said storage means for playback.
19. (Newly Added) Method according to claim 1, wherein the audio extract is an audio sequence being synthesized from the actual audio track.
20. (Newly Added) Method according to claim 1, further comprising after the step of classifying the new audio track into an existing group or cluster and before the step of selecting automatically an audio track as representative for the cluster into which the new audio track was classified, the steps of:
detecting the number or a dissimilarity range of the tracks within said cluster;
if the detected number or dissimilarity range is above a minimum level,
automatically creating a new cluster;
assigning some of the audio tracks of said cluster, including the newly added track, based on the respective characteristic parameters, to the new cluster while some audio tracks remain in said cluster;
and the method further comprising the steps of:
selecting automatically an audio track being a representative for the new cluster, wherein the medoid of the new cluster is selected;
automatically generating a reproducible new audio extract from said audio track representative for the new cluster; and
associating said new audio extract as representative of said new cluster to the menu list.

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21. (Newly Added) Method according to claim 20, wherein the step of assigning some of the audio tracks of said cluster to the new cluster uses the K-means algorithm to decide which audio tracks are assigned to the new cluster.
22. (Newly Added) Method according to claim 20, wherein the minimum level to which the detected number of tracks within said cluster is compared depends on the number of tracks in other existing clusters.
23. (Newly Added) Apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:
means for detecting the number or a dissimilarity range of the tracks within said cluster, after said new audio track was classified into said cluster and before an audio track was selected as representative for said cluster;
means for automatically creating a new cluster if the detected number or dissimilarity range is above a minimum level;
means for assigning some of the audio tracks of said cluster, including the newly added track, based on the respective characteristic parameters, to the new cluster while some audio tracks remain in said cluster;
and further comprising:
means for automatically selecting the medoid audio track of the new cluster as representative for the new cluster;
means for automatically generating a reproducible new audio extract from said audio track representative for the new cluster; and
means for associating said new audio extract as representative of said new cluster to the menu list.
24. (Newly Added) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the means for assigning some of the audio tracks of said cluster to the new cluster uses the K-means algorithm to decide which audio tracks are assigned to the new cluster.
25. (Newly Added) Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the minimum level to which the detected number of tracks within said cluster is compared depends on the number of tracks in other existing clusters.